



Gary J. Hartz, P.E.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director
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Indian Health Service

Rear Admiral (RADM) Gary J. Hartz is the Director of the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native people. RADM Hartz oversees health care facilities and staff quarters construction, facility maintenance and operations, and realty. He also has responsibility for a comprehensive environmental health program including institutional environmental health, injury prevention, and sanitation facilities construction services throughout Indian country. He has direct responsibility for the IHS Facilities appropriation.

RADM Hartz began his career with the IHS in 1971. His first assignment as a Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps Officer and Field Engineer was with the IHS Navajo Area in Tohatchi, New Mexico, followed in 1974 with an assignment to the IHS Alaska Area in Ketchikan with responsibilities for sanitation facilities construction throughout Southeast Alaska. In 1977, he transferred to the IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, where he was subsequently promoted to positions of increasing responsibility within OEHE, including Chief of the Sanitation Facilities Construction Branch, Director for the Division of Environmental Health, and ultimately to his current position of Director, OEHE. He has also been in numerous special assignments such as the Technical Training Director for the Moroccan Peace Corps Volunteer Skill Training Unit, a Self-Governance negotiator, an agency witness before numerous congressional committees addressing budget and technical issues, and the agency designated representative to handle the first informal conference stipulated under Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, P.L. 93-638, to a mutually agreeable solution.

In August 1998, RADM Hartz was named Acting Director for the Office of Public Health. The Office of Public Health had responsibilities for a wide range of health activities related to health leadership, policy development, and advocacy for American Indian and Alaska Native public health issues. He managed a staff that assisted the Agency on budget formulation and resource allocation regarding the operation and management of IHS direct, tribal, and urban public health programs; program evaluation and assessment; research agenda; and special public health initiatives for the Agency. In addition to the Division of Facilities and Environmental Engineering, the Office of Public Health also included the Division of Community and Environmental Health, the Division of Clinical and Preventive Services, and the Division of Managed Care.

During the period of IHS restructuring, RADM Hartz held the position of Acting IHS Deputy Director from August 2004 to February 2005. He shared the responsibility for management of a national health care delivery program responsible for providing preventive, curative, and community care for approximately 1.8 million of the nation's 3.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

RADM Hartz received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota. In 1977, he earned a master of science degree in civil engineering: construction engineering and management from Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. He also has completed postgraduate studies at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, and continued management development at the Federal Executive Institute and the Senior Managers in Government program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. RADM Hartz is a registered professional engineer.

In May 2005, he was one of two U.S. representatives to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, to finalize the Third Edition of the WHO Guidelines for the Safe Use of Wastewater, Excreta, and Greywater. A recipient of numerous PHS and IHS awards and honors, RADM Hartz has received two Hazardous Duty Awards, two Isolated Hardship Awards, several Unit Citations, the Special Assignment Award, two Outstanding Service Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Surgeon General Award for Exemplary Service, and the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award of the Public Health Service. In 1986, RADM Hartz received the Department of Health and Human Services Federal Engineer of the Year Award presented by the National Society of Professional Engineers.